



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 518

February Session, 2008

Substitute Senate Bill No. 647

Senate, April 7, 2008

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. GAFFEY of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE BILINGUAL EDUCATOR CERTIFICATE PILOT PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 10-145h of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2008*):

4 (d) (1) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, for the period
5 from July 1, 2005, to July 1, [2008] 2009, the State Board of Education
6 shall require an applicant for certification as a bilingual education
7 teacher to demonstrate competency in English and the other language
8 of instruction as a condition of certification. Competency in English
9 shall be demonstrated by successful passage of the oral proficiency test
10 in English and an essential skills test approved by the State Board of
11 Education. Oral and written competency in the other language shall be
12 demonstrated by passage of an examination, if available, of
13 comparable difficulty as specified by the Department of Education. If
14 such an examination is not available, competency shall be

15 demonstrated by an appropriate alternative method as specified by the
16 department.

17 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, for the period
18 from July 1, 2005, to July 1, [2008] 2009, the State Board of Education
19 shall require persons seeking to become (A) elementary level bilingual
20 education teachers to be certified in (i) bilingual education and achieve
21 a satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate State Board of Education
22 approved assessment for elementary education, or (ii) elementary
23 education and have completed six semester hours of credit in English
24 as a second language course work as approved by the State Board of
25 Education, and (B) secondary level bilingual education teachers to be
26 certified in (i) bilingual education and achieve a satisfactory evaluation
27 on the appropriate State Board of Education approved subject area
28 assessment, or (ii) the subject area they will teach and have completed
29 six semester hours of credit in English as a second language course
30 work as approved by the State Board of Education. Such certificates
31 shall be valid for subject-specific bilingual education. Certification in
32 elementary bilingual education shall be valid for grades kindergarten
33 to eight, inclusive, and certification in secondary subject-specific
34 bilingual education shall be valid for grades seven to twelve, inclusive.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
---	--	--

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	10-145h(d)
-----------	---------------------	------------

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill expands temporary certification requirements for bilingual education teachers for an additional year, until July 1, 2009. The bill is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 647*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE BILINGUAL EDUCATOR
CERTIFICATE PILOT PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill extends temporary certification requirements for bilingual education teachers for an additional year. The temporary requirements have been in effect since July 1, 2005 and are scheduled to expire on July 1, 2008. The bill extends them until July 1, 2009. The extension affects both the subject and language competency requirements for such teachers.

Under the temporary certification requirements, bilingual education teachers (1) do not have to hold a dual certification in both bilingual education and either elementary education, if they wish to teach at the elementary level, or a subject area if they wish to teach a subject at the secondary level and (2) must demonstrate oral and written competency in both English and their other teaching language.

When the temporary requirements expire, the previous law's requirements will once again apply.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2008

SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS

Starting July 1, 2003, the law required those who applied for initial certification as bilingual education teachers to qualify in both bilingual education and either elementary education, if they wished to be elementary-level bilingual education teachers, or the subject area they would teach, if they sought to be secondary-level bilingual education teachers. From July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2008, current law exempts bilingual education teachers from the dual certification requirement.

The bill extends temporary exemption for an additional year, to July 1, 2009.

While the exemption is in effect, applicants for elementary-level bilingual education certification (valid for grades K-8) must be certified in either bilingual education or elementary education. For secondary-level certification (valid for grades 7-12), applicants must be certified in either bilingual education or the subject they will teach. If certified only in bilingual education, applicants must also pass the state's teacher competency test in elementary education, for elementary-level teachers, or the subject they will teach, for secondary-level teachers. If certified only in elementary education or a subject, applicants must also have completed six credit hours of State Board of Education-approved coursework in English as a second language.

LANGUAGE COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS

By law, applicants for initial bilingual education teaching certificates must demonstrate their competency in both English and the other language.

English Competency

Between July 1, 1999 and July 1, 2005, applicants for bilingual education certification had to demonstrate English competency by passing the same essential skills test required of all applicants for state teaching certificates. Since July 1, 2005, under the temporary program, applicants must pass an unspecified essential skills test approved the State Board of Education and an oral proficiency test in English.

Competency in the Other Language

Between July 1, 1999 and July 1, 2005, applicants had to demonstrate competency in the other language by passing a test in that language, if one was available, that was of comparable difficulty to the state's essential skills test for all teachers. If no such test was available, applicants had to show competency by an alternative method specified by the State Department of Education. Since July 1, 2005, applicants must demonstrate both oral and written competency in the other

language by these means.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/18/2008)